Fraud in Super-Sensitive Project of DRDO

901. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA:
SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that super-sensitive project of the Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO) condemned "Divya Drishti", Rs. 570 crore mega surveillance system has suffered a serious set-back with a fraud being detected involving a key supplier of equipment;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what action Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) Electronics Corporation of India Ltd. (ECIL) was the prime production agency responsible for procurement of subsystems as per the approved specifications. Delivery of some of the subsystems, which were to be part of the main system, could not materialize due to issuing of a directive to cease any dealings with the firm. It is likely to affect the progress of the project. It will not be possible to make an exact assessment of delay. However, all efforts will be made to keep it to the minimum.

(c) The alternative mechanisms are being evolved for meeting the technical requirements, and objectives of the project.

Assistance to Families of Martyrs

t902. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the families of martyrs, who lost their lives defending the country are not getting sufficient assistance;

(b) if so, whether Government are going to formulate any action plan to provide assistance to the families of martyrs; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (c) Acomprehensive package has been implemented by the Government to provide help to widows/Next of kin of martyred soldiers. As per the extant Government orders, the families of the Armed Forces personnel

tOriginal notice of the question was received in Hindi.

killed in the performance of their bonafide officials duties are presently paid *ex-gratia,* lump-sum compensation on the following scales:—

(i)	Death occurring due to accidents in course of performance of duties	Rs. 5 00 lakhs
(ii)	Death occurring in the course of performance of duties, attributable to acts of violence by terrorists, antisocial elements etc.	Rs. 5.00 lakhs
(iii)	Death occurring during (a) border skimishes and (b) action against militants, terrorists, extremists etc.	Rs. 7.50 lakhs
(iv)	Death occurring during enemy action in international war or such war like engagements, which are specifically notified by Ministry of Defence.	Rs. 10.00 lakhs

The widows/Next of kin of soldiers killed in situations mentioned under (i) and (ii) above are paid special family pension which is double of the ordinary family pension, and in situations (iii) and (iv) above are paid liberalized family pension, equal to reckonable emoluments last drawn by the deceased soldier at the time of his death. In addition they are paid benefits of death gratuity, leave encashment, group insurance, etc. as admissible under relevant rules.

The children of martyred soldiers are provided free education upto first degree course. Widows of the martyred soldiers are also provided rail and air travel concession. The dependents of the martyred soldiers are exempted from making one time lump-sum contribution for becoming members of the Ex-servicemen Contributory Health Scheme (ECHS).

There are are various schemes/provisions under which the widows/ dependents are extended financial grants are other facilities/ concessions including employment by the Central and respective State Governments.

Various State Governments also provide *ex-gratia* amount and other benefits to widow/dependents of martyred soldiers.